

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) Opening and closing latch device ~~[[T]]~~, adapted to facilitate closing and/or opening of a movable part ~~(58)~~ of furniture with respect to the furniture ~~(57)~~, comprising:

a container ~~(51, 81)~~ defining an internal cavity with at least one open side; ~~and comprising~~

a sliding guide ~~(60, 90)~~, characterised in that it also comprises:

a sliding element ~~(52)~~, placed in the sliding guide and comprising a substantially rigid hook ~~(68)~~ at a first end, suitable to catch a hooking element ~~(59)~~ integral with said movable part ~~(58)~~,

an elastic means device ~~(53)~~, placed between the sliding element ~~(52)~~ and the container ~~(51)~~, so that the elastic means device ~~(53)~~ exert an elastic force on the sliding element ~~(52)~~ suitable to make it slide, reacting on said container ~~(51)~~,

a track ~~(40)~~, placed on one side of the sliding guide ~~(60, 90)~~, with surface of the bottom defining a cam path ~~and the plan layout of which forms a closed geometrical figure~~,

a tappet means device ~~(73)~~, integral with the sliding element ~~(52)~~, suitable to travel along the cam path, so as to define a number of positions of the sliding element ~~(52)~~, corresponding to a release position, a lock position and two intermediate opening and closing positions of said movable part ~~(58)~~,

and in that the sliding guide ~~(60, 90)~~ is inclined of an angle (α) with respect to the direction along which a closing and opening movement takes place between the movable part ~~(58)~~ and the furniture ~~(57)~~.

2. (Currently Amended) Latch device according the claim 1, wherein the container ~~(51, 81)~~ comprises an insert ~~(50)~~ essentially substantially triangular in shape, one side of which defines a side of the sliding guide ~~(60, 90)~~.

3. (Currently Amended) Latch device according the claim 2, wherein the track ~~(40)~~ is provided on the side of the sliding guide ~~(60, 90)~~ constituted by said insert ~~(50, 80)~~.

4. (Currently Amended) Latch device according the claim 3, wherein the container ~~(51)~~ comprises a cover ~~(54)~~, forming one of the sides of the cavity, and a base with a connection ~~means~~ device ~~(76)~~ suitable to join the cover to the base.

5. (Currently Amended) Latch device according the claim 4, wherein the tappet ~~means~~ are device ~~is~~ formed of a ball ~~(73)~~ held in pressure against the bottom of the track ~~(40)~~ by a spring ~~(72)~~.

6. (New) Latch device according to claim 1 wherein the substantially all of the sliding guide is inclined of an angle (α) with respect to the direction along which a closing and opening movement takes place between the movable part and the furniture.

7. (New) A latch device comprising:

- a container defining an internal cavity with at least one open side;
- a sliding guide inclined of an angle (α) with respect to the direction along which a closing and opening movement takes place between the movable part and the furniture;
- a sliding element, placed in the sliding guide and comprising a substantially rigid hook at a first end, suitable to catch a hooking element integral with said movable part,
- an elastic device, placed between the sliding element and the container, so that the elastic device exert an elastic force on the sliding element suitable to make it slide, reacting on said container,
- a track, placed on one side of the sliding guide, with a surface defining a cam path; and
- a tappet device, integral with the sliding element, suitable to travel along the cam path defining positions of the sliding element comprising a release position, a lock position and one or more intermediate opening and closing positions of the movable part, wherein the tappet device is formed of a ball held in pressure against the track by a spring.

8. (New) A method of making a latch device, the method comprising:

placing a sliding element in a sliding guide, the sliding element having a substantially rigid hook at a first end suitable to catch a hooking element integral with a movable part and the sliding guide is inclined at an angle (α) with respect to the direction along which a closing and opening movement takes place;

placing an elastic device between the sliding element and a container, so that the elastic device exert an elastic force on the sliding element suitable to make it slide, reacting on the container,

providing a track on one side of the sliding guide with a surface defining a cam path; and

providing a tappet device which is integral with the sliding element and is suitable to travel along the cam path to define a plurality of positions of the sliding element, corresponding to a release position, a lock position and one or more intermediate opening and closing positions of the movable part.

9. (New) The method according the claim 8, wherein the container comprises an insert substantially triangular in shape, one side of which defines a side of the sliding guide.

10. (New) The method according the claim 9, wherein the providing a track further comprises providing the track on the side of the sliding guide constituted by the insert.

11. (New) The method according the claim 10, wherein the container comprises a cover forming one of the sides of the cavity, and a base with a connection device suitable to join the cover to the base.

12. (New) The method according the claim 11, wherein the providing a tappet device further comprises forming the tappet device with a ball held in pressure against the track by a spring.

13. (New) The method according to claim 8 wherein the substantially all of the sliding guide is inclined of an angle (α) with respect to the direction along which a closing and opening movement takes place between the movable part and the furniture.